

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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P 122041Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 437

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2826

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CA, VN

SUBJ: VIETNAM REQUEST TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY IN OTTAWA

1. MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS VIETNAM DESK OFFICER, PELLETIER, TOLD EMBOFF JULY 12 THAT SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAD REQUESTED GOC ASSENT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF VIETNAM EMBASSY IN OTTAWA. VIETNAMESE REQUEST, ACCORDING TO PELLETIER, WAS FOR EMBASSY ESTABLISHMENT AS EARLY AS JULY, BUT IN PELLETIER'S VIEW EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE WOULD BE SEPTEMBER ASSUMING GOC ASSENT. PROPOSAL PRESENTLY BEING STUDIED BY MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIALS. PELLETIER DID NOT EXPRESS OPINION AS TO WHETHER APPROVAL WOULD BE GIVEN BUT HE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOC PROBABLY WOULD AGREE.

2. GOC, ACCORDING TO PELLETIER, HAS NO PLANS FOR OPENING EMBASSY IN HANOI REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN OTTAWA, SINCE GOC AUSTERITY ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SIX MONTHS AGO INCLUDED FREEZE ON OPENING NEW DIPLOMATIC POSTS. PELLETIER DID NOT DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, OF GOC SEEKING TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY IN HANOI, IF FOR EXAMPLE, CANADIANS INSTITUTE A BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IN VIETNAM. PELLETIER ADDED THAT QUESTION OF BILATERAL AID TO VIETNAM IS ITSELF PRESENTLY BEING STUDIED BY GOC.

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3. PELLETIER TOLD EMBOFF THAT VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES
HAD SUBMITTED TO CANADIANS NAMES OF PROSPECTIVE EMBASSY
OFFICIALS AND THAT THE RCMP HAD LAST WEEK FORWARDED THESE
NAMES TO APPROPRIATE U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR
REVIEW.
ENDERS

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NNN

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